

# The Administrative Burden of Petitions

## 2018 – Weber County Signature Numbers

Category	Signatures	Hours	Cost
State Initiatives	71,325	1,189	\$14,265.00*
State Candidates	4,527	75	\$905.40*
Local Petition	5,283	88	\$1,056.60
Local Candidates	12,275	205	\$2,455.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>93,410</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>\$18,682.00</b>

*Hours are estimated on the rate of 1 signature per minute at an average labor cost of \$12 per hour*

## 2018 – Statewide Initiative Numbers

Initiative	Signatures	Hours	Cost
Cannabis	201,232	3,354	\$40,246.40
Our Schools Now	36,285	605	\$7,257.00
Redistricting	194,579	3,243	\$38,915.80
Count My Vote	159,882	2,665	\$31,976.40
Medicaid	204,277	3,405	\$40,855.40
<b>Totals</b>	<b>796,255</b>	<b>13,271</b>	<b>\$159,251.00</b>

**What do the clerks want?** We want to reduce the administrative burden placed on the counties to verify petitions

**What clerks don't want** – We don't want to make it any easier or more difficult to sponsor or oppose petitions

About six years ago the LGO was asked to study the idea of electronic signatures. The committee found that the technology exists and that it is possible to gather and verify signatures electronically.

How could signatures be handled in an electronic world?

1. Allow voters to view information and sign petitions by logging into [www.vote.utah.gov](http://www.vote.utah.gov)
2. Develop a program (an app) managed by the LGO that would allow voters to sign a digital copy of a petition
3. Continue to allow for paper petitions to be circulated

What are some advantages to consider?

- Allow only registered and qualified voters to sign petition
- Allow for materials to be viewed electronically prior to signing
- Allow for removal of name, should the voter change their mind
- Allow for immediate and accurate counts of where the petition stands with little time spent on signature verification by the clerks, or the LGO
- Allow for the use of analytics such as time and place of signature to be recorded to help identify potential fraud